(b) PTC India Limited (PTC) has been asked to enter into detailed Power Purchase and Sale Agreements.

(c) The first unit of Tala Hydroelectric Project is expected to be commissioned shortly.

(d) No, Sir. The tariffs of power produced by hydroelectric stations are project specific (In some case it may be lower and in some cases it may be higher).

(e) Three new major hydro projects namely Punatsangchhu-I, Punatsangchhu-ll and Mengdeehu hydroelectric projects have been identified for development in Bhutan. India and Bhutan have also signed as agreement on long-term cooperation in the filed of hydro power.

Steps to resolve power crisis

664. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during this summer the country and particularly National Capital Delhi witnessed a major power crisis;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the reasons for this crisis;

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to see that the power crisis such as this does not occur again;

(d) whether there is any plan before Government to formulate an Integrated Energy Regulator to monitor the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There has been an overall power shortage in the country during the current summer seasons except in a few States. The shortages vary from State to State, month to month and hour to hour. The average energy and peak shortage in the country during the period April-June, 2006 was 9.3% and 12.8% respectively. The energy and peak shortage in Delhi during the same period was 1.9% and 2.8% respectively. The shortage in the peak summer months is generally higher due to extreme weather conditions combined with higher agricultural load. In the National Capital

Delhi, power requirement in summer months has been considerably high due to extreme weather condition and reduced availability of power due to more outages of generating units and reduced availability of hydro generation due to inadequate snow melting.

(c) The following steps/measures have been/are being taken to improve the power supply position in the cuntry;

(i) utilization of unutilized capacity of gas based stations (due to shortage of gas) on liquid fuel, efforts for speedy revival of generating units under outage and rescheduling of maintenance of generating units to the extent possible.

(ii) maximization of generation through improvement in Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal power stations.

(iii) early stabilization of newly commissioned units.

(iv) renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.

(v) tapping of surplus power from captive power plants.

(vi) enhancement of inter-state and inter-regional transfer of power by strengthening of inter-regional transmission links.

(d) No proposal for setting up an integrated energy regulator is under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

Hydro Power Project by NTPC in Gujarat

665. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. is exploring the possibility of setting-up hydro power project in Gujarat considering its longest coastline in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) NTPC is not exploring any Hydro Power Project in Gujarat at present, as based on Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) ranking study no viable Hydro Project is available in Gujarat.